

WE CLAIM:

1. In an optical disc comprising machine-readable, information-encoding features, the improvement comprising:

a barrier layer releasably coupled to the disc, said barrier layer configured to prevent machine-reading of the features; and

a reading-inhibit agent, included in the disc and activated by removal of the barrier layer, said reading-inhibit agent operative, once activated, to alter the disc to inhibit reading of the disc.

2. The invention of Claim 1 wherein the disc comprises a first surface, wherein the features are adjacent the first surface, wherein the inhibit agent is adjacent the features, and wherein the barrier layer is adjacent the inhibit agent.

3. The invention of Claim 1 wherein the disc comprises a translucent layer operative to transmit a beam of light toward the features, wherein the inhibit agent is incorporated in or adjacent to the translucent layer, and wherein the barrier layer comprises a sheet adjacent the translucent layer.

4. The invention of Claim 1 wherein the disc comprises a reflective film, and wherein the inhibit agent comprises a corrosion-enhancing agent disposed in or adjacent to the reflective film.

5. The invention of Claim 3 wherein the inhibit agent is operative, once activated, to increase scattering of the beam of light.

6. The invention of Claim 3 wherein the inhibit agent is operative, once activated, to absorb the beam of light.

7. The invention of Claim 1 wherein the inhibit agent is operative, once activated, to alter a physical dimension of the disc.

8. In an optical disc comprising machine-readable, information-encoding features, the improvement comprising:

a reading-inhibit agent, included in the disc and activated by machine-reading the disc, said reading-inhibit agent operative, once activated, to alter the disc to inhibit reading of the disc.

9. The invention of Claim 8 wherein the inhibit agent is activated by optical radiation incident on the disc during machine-reading of the disc.

10. The invention of Claim 8 wherein the inhibit agent is activated by rotation of the disc during machine-reading.

11. The invention of Claim 8 further comprising a reservoir on the disc containing the reading-inhibit agent, said reservoir configured to release the reading-inhibit agent when the disc is rotated during machine-reading.

12. A method for inhibiting reading of an optical disc, comprising the following steps:

(a) providing an optical disc comprising machine-readable, information-encoding features, and a reading-inhibit agent, said inhibit agent activated by optical radiation and operative, once activated, to alter the disc to inhibit reading;

(b) providing a reading device operative to read the disc, said reading device comprising a source of optical radiation; and

(c) reading the disc with the reading device and concurrently activating the inhibit agent with optical radiation from the source.

13. The method of Claim 12 wherein the reading device provided in step (b) additionally comprises a source of a reading beam, in addition to the source of optical radiation.

14. A method for inhibiting reading of an optical disc, comprising the following steps:

(a) providing an optical disc comprising machine-readable, information-encoding features, and a reading-inhibit agent, said inhibit agent activated by optical radiation and operative, once activated, to alter the disc to inhibit reading;

(b) providing a reading device operative to read the disc, said reading device comprising first and second sources of optical radiation; and

(c) reading the disc with the first source and concurrently activating the inhibit agent with the second source.

15. A method for inhibiting reading of an optical disc, comprising the following steps:

(a) providing an optical disc comprising machine-readable, information-encoding features, and a reading-inhibit agent, said inhibit agent activated by optical radiation and operative, once activated, to alter the disc to inhibit reading;

(b) providing a reading device operative to read the disc, said reading device comprising a source of optical radiation; and

(c) reading the disc with the source while concurrently activating the inhibit agent with optical radiation from the source.

16. In an optical disc comprising machine-readable, information-encoding features, the improvement comprising:

a reservoir included in the disc;

a passageway interconnecting the reservoir and a portion of the disc comprising the information-encoding features; and

a reading-inhibit agent, included in the reservoir and activated by machine-reading the disc, said reading-inhibit agent operative, once activated, to alter the disc to inhibit reading of the disc.

17. The invention of Claim 16 wherein the passageway comprises a valve.

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18. The invention of Claim 17 wherein the valve comprises a valve element that is soluble in the reading-inhibit agent.

19. The invention of Claim 17 wherein the valve comprises a mechanical valve.

20. The invention of Claim 16 comprising a wick disposed in the reservoir.

21. The invention of Claim 16 further comprising at least one vent in communication with the passageway.

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